

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**  
**US 301 South Corridor Transportation Study**

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property

and/or common Charles Curtis Property

**2. Location:**

street & number 6100 Crain Highway ☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

**3. Classification:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles and Doris Curtis

street & number 334 Brightseat Road telephone no.:

city, town Landover state and zip code MD 20785

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Prince George's County liber 8752

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive folio 366

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

☐ depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG:82A-46 (PACS A25)

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 4

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property is a 1½-story, 3-bay Bungalow on the south side of Crain Highway (Route 301) in the Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1935, the building is rectangular in plan with a front and rear integral porch.

The structure has a side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The house is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding, and it has a concrete block foundation. The windows are wood 6/6 double-hung. The house has an integral porch on the front and rear elevations on concrete piers. The front porch is screened and has square wood posts. The rear porch is supported by ornamental iron posts.

The front, or north facade has a central entrance consisting of a wood door. The fenestration pattern on the front facade is symmetrical, with a pair of windows on each side of the central entrance. The second story has two gable dormers with double-hung windows.

The east elevation has a symmetrical fenestration pattern. The basement level has two 2-light awning windows. The first and second stories each have two double-hung windows aligned over the basement level fenestration.

The rear, or south elevation has a partially enclosed porch. The south end of the porch has been enclosed with vinyl siding. A wood door opens onto the porch on the north side of the enclosure. Within the porch is a wood, 3-light door, one awning window and a single 6/6 double-hung window on the first story of the rear elevation. There is one gable dormer with a double-hung window on the second story.

The west elevation has an asymmetrical fenestration pattern. The basement level has two awning windows. The first story has two double-hung windows and a pair of double-hung windows, while the second story has two double-hung windows.

There are three additional structures on the property. The first building is a metal trailer located west of the house. To the south of the house is a 1-story garage and a wood-frame gazebo. The garage has a garage bay and a vinyl door on the north elevation.

The property is located on the top of a hill along the south side of the Crain Highway. It is bounded by Crain Highway on the north and forested land to the east, south and west. The property is located south of the town of Upper Marlboro near the Pope's Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in a moderately developed section of the highway. Commercial structures, such as car dealerships and shopping centers, are located to the north of the house, while the land south of the house is predominately residential.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG:82A-46 (PACS A25)

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	humanitarian
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater
<u>x</u> 1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation
		__invention		__other (specify)

**Specific dates**    circa 1935

**Builder/Architect** unknown

check:      Applicable Criteria:    \_\_\_A   \_\_\_B   \_\_\_C   \_\_\_D  
                       and/or  
Applicable Exceptions:    \_\_\_A   \_\_\_B   \_\_\_C   \_\_\_D   \_\_\_E   \_\_\_F   \_\_\_G  
  
Level of Significance:    \_\_\_national                  \_\_\_state                  \_\_\_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property was originally situated on 138.81 hectares (343 acres) of land purchased in 1935. A house was constructed on the land circa 1935, after the two historic maps of the county, Martenet's Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861 and Hopkins' Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1878, had been published. The house and its associated 10.09 hectares (24.95 acres) were conveyed to Charles and Susan Curtis in 1949. The parcel currently retains this size and is owned by the heirs of Susan Curtis.

The Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property is a Bungalow constructed circa 1935. The bungalow became the dominant style of middle and working class housing in the period between 1900 and 1920. It was a style spread primarily by plans sold in popular catalogues, rather than by architects. Bungalows are typically one-and-a-half-story structures, with low, horizontal lines and an integral porch on the front of the house. They are also characterized by a series of broad gables that form contiguous and receding planes. Gables often are bracketed and have wide projecting eaves. Roofs are gently pitched and often have either gable or shallow shed dormers. Windows are either sash or casement with many lights or single panes of glass. Bungalows are also notable for their earth-tone stains and use of natural materials such as stones, shingling, or stucco. The bungalow form frequently features Craftsman-style detailing, such as exposed rafter tails, wood brackets under eave overhangs, three-over-one double-hung sash windows, and wide wood frames around doors and windows. There are numerous variations to the bungalow style such as the Colonial, Swiss, and Spanish. Bungalows were enormously popular in the early years of the twentieth century because they were inexpensive to design and build. Their emergence coincided with the rise in the number of working and middle class Americans who could afford to purchase a house (Klein 1985, 44).

The Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property is located near the town of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The Native American inhabitants of southern Maryland from the Piscataway and Potobac nations were joined by European settlers beginning in 1634 with the establishment of St. Mary's City by Leonard Calvert. Successive waves of colonists took up tracts of land further inland from the Chesapeake Bay along the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and their tributaries. Charles County was formed in 1658 and Prince George's County was established in 1696. Settlements confined to inland areas until road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result

# CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:82A-46 (PACS A25)

ADDRESS: 6100 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland

## 8. Significance (Continued)

of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of both Charles and Prince George's counties until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion necessitated agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in 1873 linked Prince George's and Charles counties with the surrounding area, encouraging trade and settlement. While the suburbanization of Prince George's and Charles counties was ensured by the widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, these southern Maryland counties have also retained their rural and agricultural character.

### NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

Constructed circa 1935, the Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a common building type. The building is a simplified example of a Bungalow, which lacks ornamentation or unique structural elements. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer, OPS: Suzanne Dickens

Date: 07/21/1997

Reviewer, NR Program: *[Signature]*

Date: 7/21/97

*[Handwritten mark]*

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG:82A-46(PACS A25)

Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Bristol, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Tim Tamburrino

ganization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date September 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:82A-46 (PACS A25)

ADDRESS: 6601 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boucher, Jack E. Landmarks of Prince George's County, Maryland. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1993.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn. Across the Years in Prince George's County. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George, Maryland. Riverdale, Maryland: Reprint by the Prince George's County Historical Society, 1975.

Klein, Marilyn W. and David P. Fogle. Clues to American Architecture. Washington D.C. and Philadelphia: Starrhill Press, 1986.

Ortenet, Simon J. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861. Riverdale, Maryland: Reprint by the Prince George's County Historical Society, 1996.

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland. Upper Marlboro, 1993.

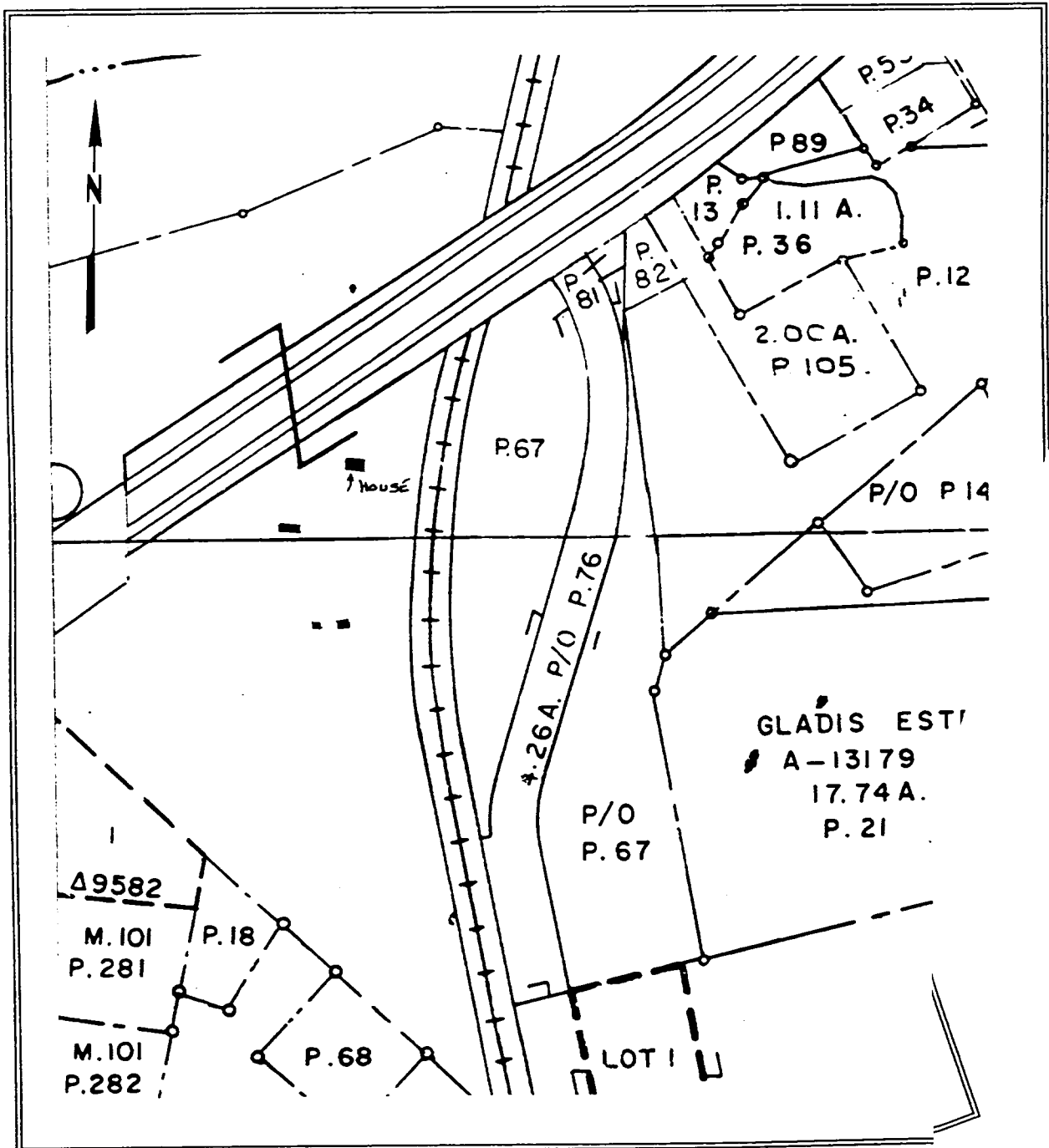
Pearl, Susan G., Marina King and Howard S. Berger. Historic Contexts in Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1991.

Prince George's County Tax Records

Watson, James Douglas. Prince George's County, Past and Present. Washington, D.C.: Federal Lithograph Company, 1962.

<b>CONTINUATION SHEET</b>	
<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST</b>	
<b>STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM</b>	
<b>RESOURCE NAME:</b> Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property	
<b>SURVEY NO.:</b> PG:82A-46 (PACS A25)	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 6100 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland	

**ADDRESS:** 6100 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland



**Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet**

Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property; PG:82A-46 (PACS A25)  
6100 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, MD

**Historic Context:**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**Geographic Organization:**

Western Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):**

Architecture

**RESOURCE TYPE:**

**Category (see Section 3 of survey form):**

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not  
applicable; Occupied; Not accessible; Private Residence

**Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):**

Suburban

**Historic Function(s) and Use(s):**

Residence

**Known Design Source (write none if unknown):**

None



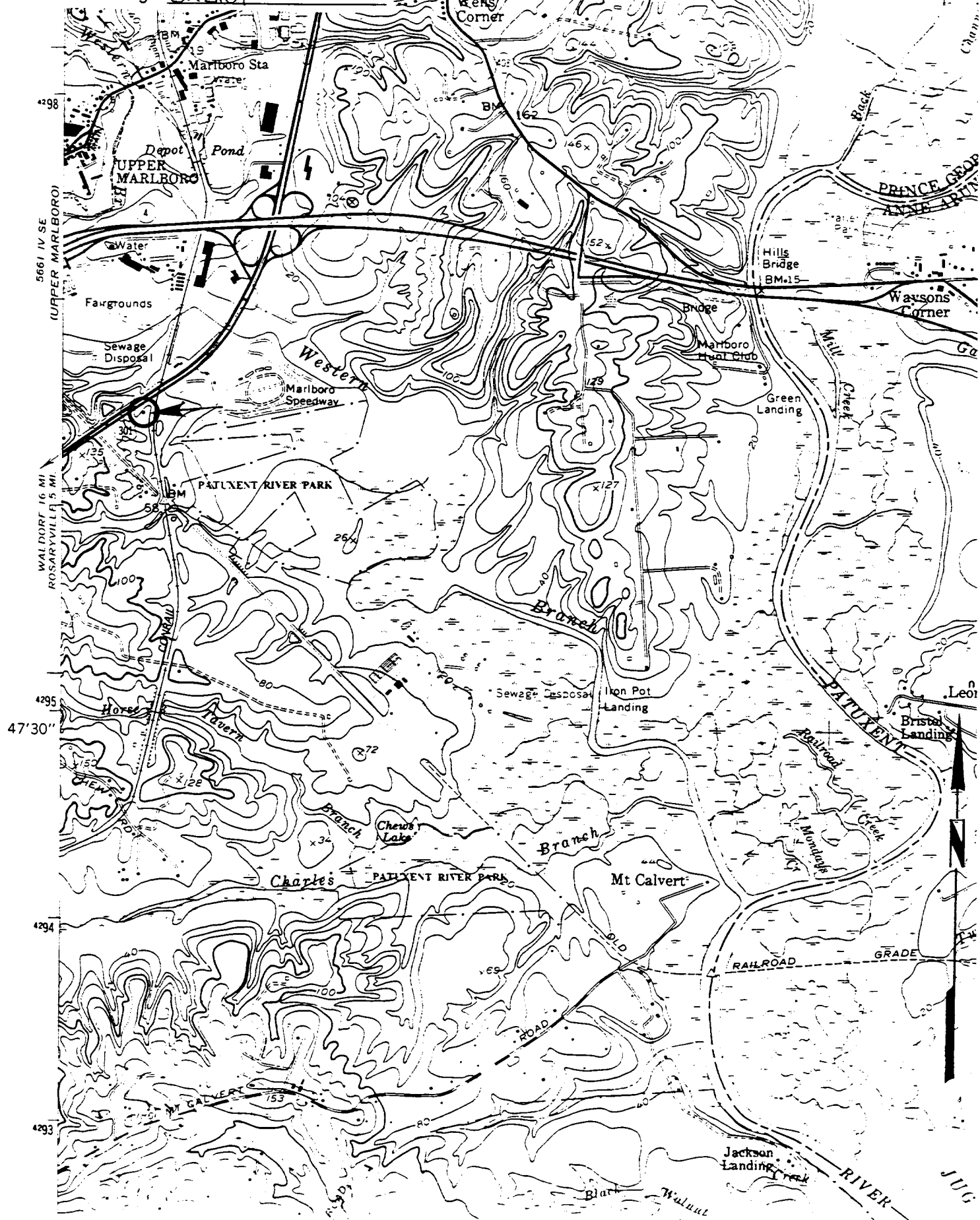
U.S. 301 South Corridor  
Transportation Study

Survey # A25 PG: B2A-46

Property Name Benjamin and Marguerite Curtis Property

Town/County Upper Marlboro vicinity PG: C9

Quadrangle Bristol



PG:82A-46



PG: 82A-46

